

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05423 010804Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 INSE-00 ISO-00 /019 W  
-----122288 010819Z /23

R 010729Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 147  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 5423

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJECT: IPP-78: DEBRIEFING OF RECENT BOAT CASE ARRIVALS

REF: HONG KONG 4860

1. WE DEBRIEFED MEMBERS OF (1) GROUP OF 26 BOAT REFUGEES WHO  
ARRIVED HERE APRIL 10 AND (2) GROUP OF 14 REFUGEES WHO CAME  
ON APRIL 15.

2. REFTEL NOTED THAT PREVIOUS ARRIVALS STATED HONG KONG WAS  
SELECTED AS DESTINATION SINCE FEEDBACK TO VIETNAM FROM REFUGEES  
HERE WAS THAT ACCOMMODATIONS IN HONG KONG ARE GOOD AND ALL  
REFUGEES PROCEED TO U.S. BOTH GROUPS GAVE SAME REASONS FOR  
COMING HERE AND ALSO PLANNED TRIP ABOUT ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE,  
STATING THAT ABSOLUTE SECRECY IS NECESSARY SINCE, IF BOAT  
ESCAPE IS SUSPECTED BY GOVT, HOUSES WILL BE SEARCHED AND ANY  
GOLD OR FOREIGN CURRENCY FOUND WILL BE CONFISCATED. MOTIVES  
FOR LEAVING VIETNAM WERE OPPRESSIVE CONDITIONS, INCLUDING  
SHORT RATIONS, AND DESIRE TO AVOID MILITARY CONSCRIPTION.  
BORDER CONFLICT WAS NOT MENTIONED, BUT RATHER FACT  
THAT ALL MALES MUST ENTRY MILITARY SERVICE UPON  
18TH BIRTHDAY.

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3. GROUP (1) LEFT DANANG ON APRIL 4 AT NIGHT AND SAILED  
IN NORTHEAST DIRECTION. ON APRIL 7 THEY ENCOUNTERED  
FREIGHTER, WHICH DESPITE CALLS AND SIGNALS FOR  
ASSISTANCE, SAILED ALONG SIDE BUT IGNORED THE REFUGEE  
BOAT. TWO DAYS LATER, JUNK CHANGED DIRECTION AND  
FOUND SWIFT CURRENT WHICH BROUGHT REFUGEES DIRECTLY

TO HONG KONG. IRONICALLY, JUST BEFORE THEY LANDED  
ON APRIL 9 THEY PASSED SAME FREIGHTER ANCHORED IN  
HONG KONG WATERS.

4. GROUP (2) DEPARTED DANANG ON APRIL 10 AT NIGHT.  
TWO DAYS LATER THEY ENCOUNTERED PRC FISHING BOAT  
EAST OF HAIMAN AND OBTAINED FRESH WATER FROM THAT  
BOAT. DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 13/14, THEY SAW AN  
ISLAND WITH LIGHTS AND SAILED TOWARDS IT, BELIEVING  
THEY WERE REACHING HONG KONG. BEFORE ARRIVING AT  
ISLAND, THEY MET LARGE PRC FISHING VESSEL, WHICH  
INFORMED THEY WERE IN PRC WATERS (SOUTHWEST OF MACAU).  
PRC CAPTAIN SET THEIR COMPASS FOR DIRECTION TO  
HONG KONG AND GAVE THEM DIRECTIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.  
THEY ARRIVED IN HONG KONG ON APRIL 14.  
LEVIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, DEBRIEFINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978HONGK05423  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780185-0380  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 78  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 4fb2a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 HONG KONG 4860  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2532528  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IPP-78: DEBRIEFING OF RECENT BOAT CASE ARRIVALS  
**TAGS:** SREF, HK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4fb2a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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